United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1713
22 August 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council and Secretary-General condemn killing of seven Indian peace-keepers in militia attack on convoy in Somalia.

+ UNAMIR reports successful transition as French troops complete withdrawal from Rwanda protected zone; closure of Zaire border causes some tension.

+ Secretary-General, addressing Preparatory Committee for Social Summit, says United Nations cannot be force for peace without being force for development; seeks international strategy to guarantee human security.

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Security Council President Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation) and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today strongly condemned the killing of seven Indian soldiers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). The peace-keepers were escorting a convoy from Baledogle to Baidoa this morning when they were ambushed by unidentified militia using heavily-armed "technical" vehicles. Another nine Indian soldiers were injured in the incident, three of them critically.

In a statement to correspondents, President Vorontsov said the members of the Security Council had been stunned by news of the killings, and described the attack as treacherous and cowardly. He noted that the Council would discuss the Secretary-General's recent report on Somalia tomorrow.

The Secretary-General said the ambush appeared to have been premeditated and highly coordinated. He pointed out that the peace-keepers were helping Somalis to rebuild their political institutions and to achieve peace and stability.

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The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) today formally took control of the southwestern protected zone following the withdrawal of French troops and the conclusion of Operation Turquoise. The occasion was

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marked with a ceremony at Cyangugu airport. A United Nations spokesman said the transition was smooth, notwithstanding tensions resulting from the closure of the border with Zaire over the weekend and continuing humanitarian concerns.

The spokesman said that there were 100,000 to 150,000 displaced persons in the protected zone, and that 50,000 had massed in Cyangugu after the border was closed. However, the day was quiet in the zone and in the country as a whole, and humanitarian agencies described the situation as stable.

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The United Nations cannot be a strong force for peace unless it is also a strong force for development, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Addressing the Preparatory Committee for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development at Headquarters today, he said peace was no longer threatened by conflicts between States so much as by social and economic problems. "Territorial security has been largely guaranteed. But human security is in crisis," he stressed.

Individual States could not solve such problems as environmental degradation, the spread of diseases and international crime, the Secretary-General continued. States also had to contend with social disintegration and the crisis of values caused by rapid economic and technological change. He warned of the danger posed by extremist, separatist or factional leaders who directed the anger of disaffected communities into political channels; they held Governments responsible for joblessness, economic insecurity and inadequate social protection systems.

The Secretary-General said the Summit, to be held in Copenhagen next March, should produce an international strategy for social development. It should aim for such specific targets as: halving the proportion of people living in poverty; creating jobs and sustainable livelihoods; and reducing disparities among income classes, sexes, ethnic groups, geographical regions and nations. Economic growth was a means to an end, not an end in itself. It should be equitably distributed and empower people, not marginalize them.

The United Nations must be more than an international platform for political debate, the Secretary-General went on to say. With its uniquely strong and diverse development system, the Organization must provide an integrated and effective support system for sustainable human development.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1714
23 August 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Special Rapporteur on Human Rights recommends dispatch of 20 experts to monitor refugee routes and population centres in Rwanda; envisages long-term deployment of up to 200 experts.

+ UNAMIR says situation in former Rwanda protected zone is beginning to stabilize; Goma-style disaster has been averted.

+ Secretary-General asks Special Envoy Piriz-Ballón to review situation in Tajikistan with representatives of Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

+ UNPROFOR says it is caring for more than 10,000 refugees from Bihac pocket in United Nations Protected Area in Croatia.

+ UNOSOM II says it has not yet established who ambushed convoy at Burleego yesterday; notes that attackers taken prisoner were members of General Aidid's sub-clan, and that incident took place in SNA-controlled territory.

+ As Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination tries to streamline agenda, non-governmental organizations object to proposals to limit participation in debate on human rights violations.

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The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, René Degni-Ségui, has recommended that the United Nations urgently deploy 20 experts in Rwanda to monitor refugee movements along "humanitarian routes" and 10 major population centres. He said between 150 and 200 experts should be deployed as soon as possible for at least six months to monitor the return of refugees and the reconstruction of the country, as well as to inquire into major human rights violations. The experts would be gradually withdrawn at the end of the period of national reconstruction, leaving 50 to conclude the inquiry.

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Those recommendations were contained in a plan of action put forward by the Special Rapporteur in a report to the Economic and Social Council dated 12 August. He said that the fundamental problem in Rwanda was that of security, and that it had not been solved by the ending of the armed conflict. Abandoned houses had been illegally occupied, banditry and robbery were rampant, and State administration was virtually non-existent. Human rights experts could help restore confidence, prevent massacres, and deter reprisals by the new authorities. He stressed that international assistance was vital to reconciliation and reconstruction efforts in Rwanda, and appealed for voluntary contributions to support the early deployment of the experts.

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The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) today reported that the situation in the former southwestern protected zone was beginning to stabilize. Meanwhile, aid workers were experiencing "a creeping sense of security," according to a spokesman for the Organization.

The United Nations Rwanda Emergency Office estimated that 150,000 to 200,000 people had crossed into Zaire in the last week, while the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) put the total refugee population in the greater Bukavu area at about 350,000. "It seems now that a Goma-style disaster has been successfully averted," the spokesman said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has reviewed the serious deterioration of the situation in Tajikistan and at the Tajik/Afghan border in the last few days with Special Envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballón, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General instructed Mr. Piriz-Ballón and his senior colleagues dealing with Tajikistan to meet this afternoon with the representatives of the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan to review the situation and to consider possible initiatives by the Organization.

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The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) today said it was caring for more than 10,000 refugees who had fled the Bihac pocket for a United Nations Protected Area (UNPA) in Croatia. Several thousand more refugees remained on the outer limit of the UNPA, and UNPROFOR, the local Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were assisting them. Meanwhile, a camp was being established for the refugees near the Bosnian border.

A United Nations spokesman said the problem would be a long-term one as the refugees had either worked or fought for Fikret Abdic, who had led the breakaway Muslim faction in Bihac. They were unlikely to return home until Mr. Abdic did so, which was not foreseen in the immediate future.

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Two Indian troops serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) remained in a critical condition today following the attack near Burlego yesterday, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Seven peace-keepers were killed and a total of nine were wounded in the incident.

UNOSOM II had not yet established who was responsible for the attack, the spokesman said. However, he noted that the three militia members taken prisoner belonged to General Mohamed Farah Aidid's sub-clan, and that the incident had taken place in territory controlled by the Somali National Alliance (SNA).

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The Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities has been attempting to streamline its agenda, amid complaints that experts do not have enough time to study documents and reports properly. However, non-governmental organizations objected to proposals that would limit their participation under the Subcommission's most hotly debated item -- human rights violations around the world. Under that item, allegations can be raised against specific countries.

Chairman Judith Sefi Attah informed the Subcommission that the current session, scheduled to conclude on Friday, was four and a half days behind schedule. The Bureau of the Subcommission had thus postponed consideration of an agenda item on human rights and scientific and technical developments until next year. Speaking times would be halved, to 10 minutes for Subcommission experts, five minutes for country observers and non-governmental organizations, and three minutes for Governments exercising their right of reply.

Amnesty International, speaking on behalf of a number of non-governmental organizations, urged the Subcommission to reject changes in the rules of participation proposed by a working group. The changes would cause "severe restrictions" on expression and thus on the victims represented by non-governmental organizations. Other experts proposed extending Subcommission sessions from four to six weeks, or setting aside the first week of each session for the item.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1715
24 August 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly, acting without vote, grants observer status to Sovereign Military Order of Malta; approves appointment of Karl Theodor Paschke as Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

+ Secretary-General sends Special Envoy Piriz-Ballón to Dushanbe with view to resuming inter-Tajik negotiations.

+ Secretary-General recommends that General Assembly establish United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala for six months.

+ Commission of Experts to leave for Rwanda and neighbouring countries on 27 August to investigate grave humanitarian violations and possible acts of genocide.

+ Secretary-General revises cost estimate for UNAMIR to $100 million for period 5 April to 30 September.

+ UNPROFOR says all 19 crossing points into United Nations Protected Areas in Croatia are now open.

+ Special Representative Gbeho warns Somalis that attacks on UNOSOM II will meet prompt, firm and decisive response.

+ Mozambique demobilization process virtually complete, but formation of new army falls behind schedule.

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The General Assembly today granted observer status to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta by adopting, without a vote, a resolution sponsored by 71 States. The Assembly had not granted such status since 1990, when the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) became an observer. The United States dissociated itself from the consensus on granting observer status to the Order, while the United Kingdom said it would not have supported the action had there been a vote.

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The Assembly also approved the appointment of Karl Theodor Paschke, a German national, as Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services. The Assembly decided in July to establish an Office of Internal Oversight Services to undertake actions for monitoring, auditing, inspections and investigations in the United Nations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked Special Envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballón to go to Tajikistan as soon as possible to use his good offices and to discuss confidence-building measures with a view to resuming inter-Tajik negotiations. The Secretary-General took that action in response to the deteriorating situation there, and following Mr. Piriz-Ballón's meeting yesterday with the representatives of the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the General Assembly establish the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) for six months. In a report dated 18 August, he said the Mission would verify implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights, which was signed recently by the Guatemalan Government and the Unidad Revolucionaría Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). It could thus make a decisive contribution to efforts to end a persistent pattern of human rights abuses in the country. The Mission would require an estimated 220 international staff members, as well as 60 police and 10 military liaison officers.

The Secretary-General said establishment of the Mission was a matter for the General Assembly, rather than the Security Council, as it would be concerned only with human rights in its initial phase. The Assembly today decided to reopen its consideration of the situation in Central America in order to examine his recommendation.

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The Commission of Experts established to investigate grave humanitarian violations, including possible acts of genocide, in Rwanda will leave Geneva for a visit to that country on 27 August, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Commission will also visit Tanzania, Burundi, Zaire and other countries where Rwandan refugees fled, and will spend a total of two weeks gathering evidence.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) has been continuing to promote confidence-building measures between the new Government and the Rwandan people. The Government has admitted that isolated incidents of retribution have occurred, but has said that it has imprisoned 60 suspects, and that they will be dealt with severely if found guilty.

Special Representative Shahryar Khan met yesterday in Nairobi with 15 European Ambassadors to appeal for support for his reconstruction plan, the

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spokesman said. He reported that Kigali's water supply had been restored, and that work was underway to restore the electricity supply.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has revised the cost estimate for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) to almost $100 million for the period 5 April to 30 September. The revised estimate is $37 million higher than the commitment authorized by the General Assembly for the period 5 April to 31 October. The revision was needed because the Security Council expanded UNAMIR's mandate to include additional humanitarian responsibilities, and increased its force level to 5,500 troops, in May.

In a report to the Assembly dated 17 August, the Secretary-General noted that efforts had been made to minimize the need for extra resources. Surplus rations and equipment worth almost $23 million had been transferred to UNAMIR from the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), and that figure had been taken into account in the revised estimate.

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All 19 crossing points into the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia are now open, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. The crossing points, which had been agreed to in the 29 March cease-fire agreement, had been blockaded by Croatian demonstrators. In a Presidential statement on 12 August, the Security Council said the blockades and related impediments imposed by Croatian authorities -- such as tolls and taxes for the use of roads and airports -- were inadmissible.

The spokesman expressed concern that the demonstrators might reimpose the blockade, and said the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was monitoring the situation closely.

* * *

Special Representative Victor Gbeho has strongly condemned the killing on Monday of seven Indian soldiers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), adding that he will not hesitate to expose the perpetrators of the despicable crime. He said the emerging pattern of hostile acts and attacks against UNOSOM II personnel and other international staff would not be allowed to continue with impunity.

The Special Representative went on to warn that future attacks or harrassment would be "promptly, firmly and decisively responded to in accordance with UNOSOM II's rules of engagement."

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The process of demobilizing soldiers in Mozambique is almost virtually complete, and the process of verification has begun, a United Nations spokesman announced today. However, he said that the formation of the new

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army was behind schedule, and that it was unlikely to be accomplished by the October elections.

Meanwhile, 71 percent of the electorate -- estimated at 8 million people -- had been registered by 14 August, according to the spokesman. The first disbursements from the trust fund for political parties have been made, with 16 parties each receiving $50,000.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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25 August 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, condemns killing of seven UNOSOM II soldiers on Monday; expresses concern at deteriorating security situation in Somalia; says international support for country depends on progress towards reconciliation.

+ Security Council urges parties in Burundi to resolve political differences during current negotiations; expresses alarm at humanitarian crisis, and concern at attacks against foreigners.

+ Spain to hold Security Council Presidency in September following suspension of provisional rule of procedure.

+ High Commissioner for Human Rights to send 26 rights specialists to Rwanda within one week; envisages 147-strong deployment by end of September.

+ Special Representative Khan says Rwandan refugee exodus to Bukavu has ended, but would-be returnees are being intimidated; Department of Peace-keeping Operations draws up de-mining plan for Rwanda.

+ Under-Secretary-General Hansen appeals to de facto authorities in Haiti to release 10,000 barrels of fuel needed for humanitarian operations.

+ Secretary-General recommends that General Assembly appropriate $12.4 million for ONUSAL for period 1 June to 30 November; puts cost of liquidating mission at $2.7 million for three months.

+ Fifth Committee approves draft by which General Assembly would authorize Secretary-General to commit $37 million for UNAMIR for the period 5 April to 30 September.

+ General Assembly President begins official visit to Malaysia; to visit Viet Nam, India and United Kingdom over next two weeks.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

+ Special Mission to Afghanistan reports some progress after in-depth consultations with various parties; promotes broad-based participation in peace process.

+ WFP resumes relief flights to Malanje, Angola, after 12-week suspension due to lack of security clearances.

+ Fish Stocks Conference considers draft agreement on conservation measures and sustainable exploitation of high seas fisheries.

+ Compensation Commission assesses Kuwait Oil Company claim for $950 million to cover cost of extinguishing fires set by Iraqi forces in 1991.

+ Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination discusses new international economic order and human rights, discrimination against women, and economic, social and cultural rights.

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The Security Council has strongly condemned the killing on Monday of seven Indian soldiers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). In a statement read out by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council said it was appalled at the attack on the peace-keepers, who had been supporting international humanitarian efforts. It expressed grave concern at the deteriorating security situation in Somalia, and at the lack of progress towards reconciliation among the Somali factions. It attached great importance to an accelerated inter-clan reconciliation, particularly among the Hawiye sub-clan.

The Council said it was particularly concerned that the national reconciliation conference, to which the signatories of the Addis Ababa Agreement had agreed and which was scheduled for 15 May, had not taken place. It stressed that international support for Somalia, and the continuing presence of UNOSOM II, depended very much on the resolve of the Somali parties to achieve political compromise. The Council reminded the parties that Somalia's future lay in their hands, and urged them to make every effort to advance the reconciliation process.

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The Security Council today welcomed ongoing negotiations in Burundi aimed at reaching an early agreement on presidential succession, overcoming the constitutional crisis, and establishing stable democratic institutions. It urged all parties to display maximum political will to resolve existing differences by the scheduled date of 26 August. In a statement by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council deplored any attempts to block progress towards a political settlement, which was essential for stability in Burundi. It called on the parties to reject any undemocratic or extremist solutions in the settlement of their political differences.

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Impunity from justice was one of the most serious security-related problems in Burundi, according to the Council. It attached importance to the strengthening of the national judicial system, and to the deployment of civilian observers to monitor the establishment of a more stable environment.

The Council expressed alarm at the extent of the humanitarian crisis in Burundi, and concern at attacks against foreigners there. It called on the authorities and all parties to provide security for international personnel. The Council encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to closely review ways to promote humanitarian efforts and national reconciliation in Burundi. It also encouraged the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and Member States to redouble their efforts in that regard.

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The Security Council today decided to suspend the operation of rule 18 of its provisional rules of procedure so as to allow the Council Presidency to be held by Spain next month. The Council announced that decision in a statement read out by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation). It said the timing of the Presidency by Rwanda would be addressed later.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, has said he will send 26 officials to Rwanda before the end of the month to work in the human rights sector there. He made that announcement in Geneva today, having just returned from a visit to Africa, according to a United Nations spokesman. The officials are being deployed in order to create confidence, to cooperate with investigations by the Special Rapporteur and the Commission of Experts, and to represent the Office of the High Commissioner with regard to technical matters.

Mr. Ayala Lasso said 147 officials would be sent to Rwanda by the end of September. The initiative would cost $12 million for 6 months, in addition to the $2.1 million sought in his appeal on 2 August.

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Special Representative Shahryar Khan today reported that the exodus of Rwandan refugees to Bukavu, Zaire, had been brought under control. He said that fewer people were moving towards the Zairean border, and that people who had been preparing to flee were now staying put. Meanwhile, there were substantial population movements in the direction of Kigali.

However, intimidation was continuing to be a problem in refugee camps, according to a United Nations spokesman. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) yesterday aborted an attempt to repatriate 300 former civil servants and their families from Zaire after an attack on their convoy resulted in several casualties.

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The spokesman said that minefields -- many unmarked -- were a major problem in Rwanda, and that two children a day were being killed by mines or booby-traps. The Department of Peace-keeping Operations had sent a mission to the country last week and had drawn up a comprehensive de-mining plan.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen, today appealed to the de facto authorities in Haiti to release a shipment of 10,000 barrels of fuel for use in humanitarian operations. The shipment has been held under seal since its arrival in Port-au-Prince on 21 July, despite the completion of all normal formalities.

Mr. Hansen noted that the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) provided fuel for over 300 humanitarian organizations in Haiti. Those organizations were feeding more than 1 million people and supplying drugs to 520 health institutions. Failure to release the fuel would cause humanitarian operations to grind to a halt, with serious implications for the population at large and the poorest in particular.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate almost $12.4 million gross to cover the operation of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for the period 1 June to 30 November. That figure includes the $3.9 million authorized by Assembly resolution 48/243 and the $4.9 million provided under the terms of resolution 48/299 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1994-1995.

In a report to the Assembly dated 27 July, the Secretary-General also recommended authorization of $2.7 million for the liquidation of ONUSAL for the period 1 December 1994 to 28 February 1995.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today approved a draft decision by which the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit $37 million gross for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) for the period 5 April to 30 September. That authorization would be in addition to the $62 million already authorized for the period 5 April to 31 October.

The Committee also approved a draft decision by which the Assembly would defer to its next session a decision on the establishment of an ad hoc body to study the principle of capacity to pay as the fundamental criteria in determining the scale of assessments.

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General Assembly President S.R. Insanally (Guyana) has begun an official visit to Malaysia with a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Haji Ahmad Badawi.

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Tomorrow, he will call on Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, and will address the United Nations Malaysia Association (UNMA).

The President will leave Malaysia on Sunday for an official visit to Viet Nam, where he will have meetings with the Prime Minister, Vice-Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. On Wednesday, he will travel to India, where he will call on the President and Prime Minister. On his way back from India, the President will stop in London to address a forum on "Family in Focus", in connection with the International Year of the Family. He is scheduled to return to New York on 8 September.

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The United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan has undertaken a series of in-depth consultations with various Afghan parties and found a convergence of views on a number of issues, including the need for a viable transitional authority to run the country in the interim period. The consultations also addressed the holding of a preliminary meeting with the parties involved in the current conflict, and the three neutral parties. The head of the Mission, Mahmoud Mestiri, said such a meeting would be a first step towards broad-based participation in the peace process. He added that efforts in that regard had been fruitful.

Ambassador Mestiri reiterated the Mission's commitment to pursuing peace through negotiations with the parties, with the active participation of representatives of the Afghan people. The Mission would continue its work on the assumption that the people desired peace, and expected the full cooperation of all concerned.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has resumed relief flights to Malanje, Angola, after a 12-week suspension due to a lack of security clearances. Six flights delivered 102 metric tons of food on Wednesday, and seven flights with 119 tonnes of food were scheduled to arrive yesterday.

The WFP stopped flying to Malanje on 18 May, resulting in soaring malnutrition rates and deaths from starvation. The city is surrounded by minefields that prevent farming, and is totally dependent on airlifted food. In May, the Programme was feeding some 200,000 people in Malanje.

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The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks today began considering a 47-article draft agreement on conservation measures and terms for the sustainable exploitation of high seas fisheries. The Conference has a mandate from the General Assembly to solve problems relating to overfishing and depletion of global fish stocks. The draft outlines ways to implement related provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which enters into force 16 November.

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The European Union said that although the draft agreement attempted to address the rights and obligations of both coastal States and States fishing on the high seas, many substantive issues remained to be solved. Since reaching a consensus could take some time, it called for regional cooperation to facilitate implementation of conservation and management measures in the immediate future. Japan said that there was no consensus on the form of the final instrument, and that it had participated in the work of the Conference under the assumption that the agreement would not be binding.

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The Compensation Commission set up by the Security Council to review claims resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is preparing a preliminary assessment of a claim filed by the Kuwait Oil Company. The Company is seeking more than $950 million to cover the cost of extinguishing hundreds of oil fires set by retreating Iraqi forces.

Because of the economic, environmental and health effects of the fires, the Commission has decided to appoint a separate panel to examine the claim and to make recommendations to the Governing Council. The panel will start work as soon as possible, in view of the importance and symbolism of the claim for Kuwait.

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The Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities this week began discussing a new international economic order and the promotion of human rights; prevention of discrimination against women; and the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Two studies commissioned by the Subcommission -- on states of emergency and on the effects of extreme poverty on human rights -- were presented on Tuesday.

On Monday, the Chairperson/Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Erica-Irene Daes, presented a draft international declaration proclaiming the rights and unique values of indigenous peoples. Calling for its adoption, she said any proposed delay must be weighed against the destruction of human life and ecosystems that another year would bring. The draft's claims for self-determination and territorial rights -- which had drawn some opposition from Governments -- were universal rights which could not be denied to indigenous peoples.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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26 August 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNHCR expresses concern over security conditions in Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire; FAO and WFP warn that Rwanda faces grave food shortage by year's end.

+ United States appropriates $1.2 billion for payment of United Nations peace-keeping arrears.

+ Secretary-General appeals for release of three Western hostages held in Cambodia since July.

+ Fish Stocks Conference concludes fourth session by revising draft agreement on conservation measures and sustainable exploitation of high seas fisheries.

+ Preparatory Committee for Social Development Summit completes first readings of draft declaration and draft programme of action.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has expressed concern regarding the safety of aid workers in Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire, according to a spokesman for the Organization. That issue was addressed today at the beginning of a three-day meeting between Zairean and Rwandan ministers in Goma.

Meanwhile, Special Representative Shahryar Khan met with representatives of agencies and non-governmental organizations to present an updated reconstruction plan for Rwanda. The plan envisages obtaining a World Bank loan and reopening hospitals within days, restoring electricity supplies and beginning a de-mining programme within weeks, and reopening schools and reestablishing municipal services within months.

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For information media--not an official record

The spokesman warned that Rwanda could be facing a food crisis. A joint Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/World Food Programme (WFP) assessment mission has estimated that 2.5 million Rwandans will be gravely short of food in about five months.

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The United States Congress has appropriated some $1.2 billion to be paid against the country's peace-keeping arrears, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that Member States owed the peace-keeping account a total of $2.3 billion, and pointed out that that figure would be halved if the United States made a lump-sum payment.

Meanwhile, the United Nations owed troop-contributing countries more than $1 billion, the spokesman said. Some 20 countries had recently indicated that late payment was an obstacle to their participation in ongoing or future peace-keeping operations. Any improvement in the Organization's financial situation might thus make it easier to recruit troops, he added.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today strongly appealed for the immediate release of three hostages -- one Australian, one French and one British -- abducted in Cambodia on 26 July. The Secretary-General asked those holding the hostages to release them unconditionally on humanitarian grounds. He also called on all interested parties to use their influence to resolve the situation.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks today concluded its fourth session, having revised a draft agreement on conservation measures and terms for the sustainable exploitation of high seas fisheries. The Conference has a mandate from the General Assembly to solve problems relating to overfishing and depletion of global fish stocks. The 48-article draft outlines ways to implement related provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which enters into force 16 November.

Reviewing the work of the two-week session, Conference Chairman Satya Nandan (Fiji) said the draft agreement responded to concerns expressed at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) by establishing minimum standards for conservation and management of fish stocks. It also ensured that measures taken in areas under national jurisdiction and in the adjacent high seas areas were compatible and coherent.

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The Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development yesterday completed a first reading of the draft declaration to be adopted in Copenhagen next March. The draft declaration defines social progress as respect for the dignity of each human being, material and spiritual development of each community, and solidarity among groups and nations. The Preparatory Committee completed the first round of discussions on a draft programme of action on Wednesday.

Malaysia said the draft declaration should be "short, sweet and simple, but rich in substance." Japan wanted it to express the strong political commitment of the nations at the Summit to achieve social progress and to explain how the basic needs of the world's people could be met. A number of delegations underlined the need for special mention of the social development problems of Africa.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1718
29 August 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General says peace in Middle East requires economic and social development of West Bank and Gaza; appeals to non-governmental organizations to provide generous aid to Palestinian people.

+ Special Envoy Brunner to chair talks on political aspects of Georgian/Abhkaz settlement in Geneva this week.

+ Bosnian Government announces eight-point plan to persuade refugees to return to northern part of Bihac pocket.

+ Secretary-General says humanitarian law has important role to play in conflict prevention.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the economic and social development of the West Bank and Gaza is essential to peace-building in the region. He made that comment in a message to the four-day United Nations International NGO Meeting/European NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, which began today in Geneva.

The Secretary-General said the beginning of Palestinian self-government meant new responsibilities for the international community. Without development, hopes for peace would turn to despair; without productive and meaningful employment, the young would become restless. Non-governmental organizations had a vital role to play in that regard. They should provide generous assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and through Palestinian institutions.

The Secretary-General expressed hope that empowerment measures being finalized by Israel and the PLO would be implemented quickly, and that Palestinians throughout the occupied territories would soon enjoy full autonomy in the areas of health, education, social welfare and taxation. The measures would be milestones on the way to a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, based on Security Council resolutions, he added.

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For information media--not an official record

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The Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Georgia, Edouard Brunner, will chair talks on political aspects of a Georgian/Abhkaz settlement in Geneva this week, according to a United Nations spokesman. He will meet tomorrow with the representative of the Russian Federation, and then with the representative of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Ambassador Brunner will meet with the Georgian and Abkhaz delegations on Wednesday, the spokesman said. The talks are expected to last a week.

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The Bosnian Government today announced an eight-point plan to persuade refugees to return to the northern part of the Bihac pocket, according to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). Some 25,000 people loyal to rebel leader Fikret Abdic fled from the Velika Kladusa region to Serb-held areas in neighbouring Croatia after Bihac fell to the Bosnian Government Army nine days ago. Croatian authorities have refused to let the refugees enter territory under their control.

The Bosnian Government agreed to the plan after talks over the weekend with UNPROFOR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United States Ambassador to Croatia. It offers an amnesty for officials loyal to Mr. Abdic; permission for a delegation of refugees to visit Velika Kladusa to assess security conditions; a six-month exemption from the Bosnian Army draft for men of military age; and the establishment of an UNPROFOR-protected refugee centre.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that humanitarian law had an important role to play in conflict prevention. In a message to the nineteenth round table of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, he highlighted the need for adequate humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons and refugees. Large population movements could place extreme pressure on receiving communities, creating dangerous tensions and threatening regional stability.

The humanitarian dimension of conflict prevention was also evident in the link between the latter and respect for human rights, the Secretary-General continued. Human rights abuses and other violations of humanitarian law often sparked violence or fueled existing conflicts. Conflict prevention could not succeed where States were unwilling or unable to ensure respect for human rights and humanitarian law, he added.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1719
30 August 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council deplores rejection by de facto Haitian authorities of Secretary-General's initiative on implementation of resolution 940 (1994); condemns continuing repression and violence in Haiti.

+ Security Council expresses concern at serious deterioration in Liberian situation; urges parties to resolve their differences as soon as possible by political means.

+ Secretary-General condemns assassination of Father Jean-Marie Vincent in Port-au-Prince; says odious crime will strengthen international resolve to end acts of terror in Haiti.

+ Secretary-General dispatches mission to help coordinate United Nations humanitarian activities in Rwanda and neighbouring countries; World Bank approves $20 million in grants to four agencies working in region.

+ James Jonah to undertake assessment of political, humanitarian and military situation in Angola on behalf of Secretary-General.

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The Security Council today said it deplored the rejection by the illegal de facto régime in Haiti of the recent iniative by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali aimed at resolving the Haitian crisis. The Secretary-General had sent Mr. Rolf Knutsson to Haiti last week to explore whether the military authorities would meet with a high-level mission to discuss the peaceful implementation of Council resolution 940 (1994). Mr. Knutsson was told through intermediaries that only a civilian delegation would meet with him, and that the discussion would be at variance with that resolution.

In a statement to correspondents by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Security Council said the de facto authorities had once again given up a chance to implement the Governors Island Agreement and resolutions 917 (1994) and 940 (1994). The Council also reiterated its condemnation of the systematic repression, violence and violations of

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For information media—not an official record

international humanitarian law in Haiti. The recent assassination of Father Jean-Marie Vincent demonstrated the climate of violence and deteriorating situation there.

* * *

The Security Council today expressed concern at the serious deterioration in the situation in Liberia. In a statement to correspondents by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council urged the Liberian parties to resolve their differences as soon as possible by political means. It said they should use the opportunity provided by the Liberian National Conference to reactivate the peace process.

The Council welcomed international efforts to resolve the situation in conformity with the Cotonou Agreement, particularly those of the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African Etates (ECOWAS), President Rawlings of Ghana. The Council said it was looking forward to the Secretary-General's recommendations, based on the report of the fact-finding mission he had sent to Liberia.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed indignation and dismay at the assassination of Father Jean-Marie Vincent, a Haitian priest who was a close friend of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He said the odious crime would only strengthen the resolve of the international community to put an end to acts of murder and terror, which were committed with impunity, in Haiti.

The Secretary-General expressed his condolences to Father Vincent's family and his sympathy to President Aristide and the Haitian people on their loss.

* * *

The new Government of Rwanda is currently establishing its authority in the former protected zone in the south-west of the country, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Security Council today. He said that the process was proceeding positively, and noted that the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) had been liaising with General Paul Kagame of the Rwandan Government.

The Secretary-General informed the Council that he had dispatched a mission -- under the aegis of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs -- to ensure the best possible coordination of United Nations humanitarian activities in Rwanda and neighbouring countries. He added that he had been in touch with the Zairean Government regarding efforts to preserve peace in Rwandan refugee camps, particularly those around Goma.

Meanwhile, responding to the Secretary-General's appeal on 2 August, the World Bank today approved $20 million in grants to United Nations agencies to

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facilitate the return of Rwandan refugees. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will receive $10.5 million, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will each receive $4 million, and the World Health Organization (WHO) $1.5 million.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked former Under-Secretary-General James Jonah to go to Luanda and Lusaka to make a general assessment of United Nations efforts in Angola, according to Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto. Mr. Jonah will consider the political, humanitarian and military situation there. He will depart in two days, and is expected to report back to the Secretary-General in ten days.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1720
31 August 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General condemns killing of three Indian doctors in attack on UNOSOM II field hospital in Somalia; Under-Secretary-General Annan and General Baril to review situation on ground.

+ United Nations Emergency Office in Rwanda sets up task force to facilitate resettlement of refugees; Secretary-General voices concern at delay in resumption of talks between Rwandan and Zairean Governments.

+ Secretary-General to leave New York on Friday to attend International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo; to visit Pakistan, India, Japan and China over next two weeks.

+ UNCTAD issues World Investment Report 1994: Transnational Corporations, Employment and the Workplace.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today strongly condemned the killing of three Indian doctors serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). The doctors were killed by a mortar round or grenade while working at an Indian field hospital in Baidoa. The Secretary-General noted that they had been providing medical services to the Somali population in the region, in addition to performing their duties with the Operation. His Special Representative in Somalia, Victor Gbeho, immediately launched an investigation into the attack.

After the incident, the Secretary-General asked the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, and his Military Adviser, General Maurice Baril, to travel to Somalia to review the situation on the ground and to make recommendations to him. The timing of that mission will be announced soon.

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The United Nations Emergency Office in Kigali has established a task force to coordinate efforts to resettle Rwandan refugees, according to a

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spokesman for the Organization. He noted that there were some 1.9 million refugees and 800,000 internally displaced persons to be dealt with. In addition, the Government of Rwanda has asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to help repatriate 80,000 Rwandans living in Burudi.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed concern at the delay in the resumption of talks between the Governments of Rwanda and Zaire on the refugee problem. The spokesman said the Secretary-General had sent a personal message to the Zairean President underscoring the importance of the talks.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave New York on Friday for Cairo, where he will attend the International Conference on Population and Development, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General will address the opening meeting of the Conference on Monday.

The Secretary-General will later pay official visits to Pakistan and India, followed by a working visit to Japan on 12 and 13 September. While there, he will have talks aimed at reinforcing relations between the United Nations and Japan in the fields of economic and social development, and peace-keeping. He will then pay an official visit to China, before returning to New York around 19 September.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has issued its World Investment Report 1994: Transnational Corporations, Employment and the Workplace. The report urges policy makers to find innovative ways to meet rapid changes in the global economy, citing the growing influence of transnational corporations. It estimates that those corporations have global sales in excess of $4.8 trillion -- more than the value of world trade -- and that they employ some 73 million people. As a major force in the internationalization of economic activities, they influence the quantity and quality of jobs available worldwide.

Developing countries attracted a total of $80 billion in foreign direct investment in 1993, with China accounting for $26 billion, according to the report. Africa attracted just $3 billion, despite structural adjustments in many countries. The continent will continue to need official development assistance to create the basis for self-sustained growth. Flows to Central and Eastern Europe totaled just $5 billion. Fears voiced a few years ago that foreign direct investment in the region would be at the expense of investment in developing countries were unjustified, UNCTAD concluded.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1721
1 September 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General decides to pursue more vigorous regional approach to Rwandan crisis; asks Robert Dillon to undertake mission to region; seeks better use of resources and comprehensive response to problems.

+ Secretary-General expresses satisfaction at security measures for International Conference on Population and Development; says issues raised in Cairo will focus public attention and mobilize public opinion.

+ Secretary-General reports significant progress in Mozambican peace process; says political conditions for October elections have been met, but security situation has deteriorated.

+ De facto authorities in Haiti release fuel shipment for use by humanitarian organizations.

+ United Nations expresses concern regarding situation of some 25,000 refugees from Bihac in Croatia.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to pursue a more vigorous regional approach to the Rwandan crisis and its effects on Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire, a United Nations spokesman announced today. The Secretary-General has asked Robert Sherwood Dillon, former United States Ambassador to Lebanon and Deputy Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), to undertake a mission to the region. Mr. Dillon will consult with all concerned and identify measures to strengthen the coordination of United Nations humanitarian efforts there.

The Secretary-General said the new approach would lead to a more effective use of resources and to a comprehensive set of measures to address the problems of the region. It would also help identify problems that might have implications for other countries.

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For information media--not an official record

In a related development, the Secretary-General reiterated his concern at the deterioration in security conditions in Rwandan refugee camps. He has instructed Special Representative Shahryar Khan to discuss the matter with neighbouring countries and to make recommendations for improving security in camps in Zaire and Tanzania.

* * *

On the eve of his departure for Cairo, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed satisfaction at the security measures taken by the Egyptian Government for the International Conference on Population and Development. He noted that 148 countries were planning to participate, and that 19 delegations would be led by Heads of State or Government. Those figures revealed the strong support for the Conference and the importance which Governments attached to it.

The Secretary-General said that while there had been some controversy concerning issues before the Conference, its aim was to focus public attention and to mobilize public opinion. The Conference was about the delicate equilibrium between humanity and its environment; issues such as population, resources, food supplies and the environment could hardly be addressed without causing ripples and even some storms.

The Conference would not impose policies, nor would it be a treaty-making exercise, the Secretary-General stressed. As a United Nations endeavour, it would have the purpose, stated in the Charter, of "harmonizing the actions of nations" in the attainment of common ends. He was thus looking forward to the Conference and to the follow-up to its recommendations.

* * *

There has been significant progress in the implementation of the Mozambican peace process, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) dated 26 August, he noted that troops had been demobilized and that the major political conditions for the elections on 27 and 28 October had been met. However, the security situation had deteriorated in recent months, and public safety was threatened by increasing criminal activity and banditry.

The Secretary-General stressed that Mozambicans must ensure that the elections were free and fair, and that reconciliation and stability were promoted in the transitional period. He reminded the parties of their obligation to respect the results of the elections. He suggested that an agreement be concluded to allow opposition parties to play a meaningful role afterwards. In the meantime, the United Nations would continue to aid the peace process in order to bring it to a successful conclusion.

* * *

The de facto authorities in Haiti have released a shipment of 10,000 barrels of fuel for use by humanitarian organizations, a United Nations

spokesman announced today. The shipment had been held under seal since its arrival in Port-au-Prince in July, despite the completion of all normal formalities.

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen last week appealed for the release of the fuel, warning that humanitarian operations would grind to a halt without it. He noted that the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) provided fuel for over 300 humanitarian organizations in Haiti, and that those organizations were feeding more than 1 million people.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman today expressed concern at the situation of some 23,000 to 25,000 refugees from the Bihac pocket who are currently in United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Sector North in Croatia. The refugees -- followers of rebel leader Fikret Abdic -- fled from Bihac after it fell to the Bosnian Government Army almost two weeks ago. He said the refugees were living in "appalling" conditions in a heavily mined area, and warned of a danger of epidemics.

UNPROFOR has making every effort to encourage the refugees to return to Bihac, according to the spokesman. Civilian monitors have been patrolling the area in order to build confidence, and have reported very little damage to abandoned homes. Moreover, Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic has given assurances that the refugees will be well treated if they return.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1722
2 September 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council expresses concern at reports of ethnic cleansing by Bosnian Serbs in Bijeljina area; demands immediate end to practice wherever it occurs; calls for early release of all detainees.

+ UNPROFOR condemns Bosnian Serb attack on French helicopter flying over Sarajevo; Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia to visit Belgrade and Zagreb for talks next week.

+ After two days of talks in Geneva, Georgian and Abkhaz parties sign Statement on Voluntary Return of Refugees and Displaced Persons.

+ International Conference on Population and Development to begin in Cairo on Monday; seeks strategy for stabilizing population growth and achieving sustainable development.

+ Preparatory Committee for 1995 World Social Summit to hold inter-sessional meeting to finalize draft programme of action.

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The Security Council today said it was deeply disturbed by reports of ethnic cleansing by the Bosnian Serb party in the Bijeljina area. In a statement read out by its President, Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain), the Council condemned the practice wherever it occurred and by whomever it was committed, and demanded that it cease immediately.

The Council condemned all violations of international humanitarian law in the Bosnian conflict, stressing that those who committed them were personally responsible. It called for full implementation of provisions on the release of detainees contained in the Agreement concluded in Geneva on 8 June. It further called for the early release of all detainees, and for International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegates to be granted access to detainees in Lopare and other parts of the Bijeljina area.

The Council reaffirmed the importance of freedom of movement for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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For information media—not an official record

It noted with dismay that the Bosnian Serb party had not allowed the Secretary-General's Special Representative to visit Banja Luka, Bijeljina and other areas of concern, and strongly urged it to permit him and UNPROFOR such access. The Council also expressed concern about continuing restrictions on access to Sarajevo, particularly the Bosnian Serb closure of the routes across the airport opened following the 17 March Agreement.

In a related development, President Yañez-Barnuevo told correspondents that the Council was concerned at reports of continuing military activity and signs of a military build-up in various parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said the Council would follow that situation very closely.

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Bosnian Serb forces yesterday fired rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-guns at a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) helicopter flying over Sarajevo. The French helicopter managed to land without any casualties, despite having been hit six times. UNPROFOR strongly condemned the attack, pointing out that the Bosnian Serbs had been notified in advance of the scheduled flight. It also decided to suspend helicopter flights over Sarajevo.

Meanwhile, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, were continuing their mediation efforts. They will travel to Belgrade on Sunday, and to Zagreb on Tuesday, for talks with the parties.

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After two days of talks in Geneva, the Georgian and Abkhaz parties have signed a Statement Regarding the Voluntary Return of Refugees and Displaced Persons. The document was also signed by Special Envoy Edouard Brunner, who chaired the talks, and by representatives of the Russian Federation, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The parties agreed to make every effort to complete all necessary documentation for the return of refugees and displaced persons so that the process could begin as soon as possible. Returnees will be informed through the UNHCR that they must comply with laws which are in force in Abkhazia, and which do not contradict the right of return in accordance with the Quadripartite Agreement and universally recognized human rights. The parties noted the UNHCR's readiness to assist spontaneous returnees, as well as organized returnees, once the process has begun.

Reaffirming their commitment to previous agreements, the parties also agreed to attend the next meeting of the Quadripartite Commission in Sochi on 6 September.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will open the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo on Monday. The Conference will aim to agree on a strategy for stabilizing world population growth and achieving sustainable development. It is expected to endorse a draft 20-year programme of action which says that those aims are mutually reinforcing, and which stresses the need to empower women and to guarantee choice in family planning.

The 16-chapter, 113-page draft, which was produced by a Preparatory Committee, reflects agreement on 85 per cent of the wording to be adopted. The are three main outstanding issues. The first concerns a set of 20-year goals: universal completion of primary education, especially for girls; reduction in infant and maternal mortality; and universal access to family planning information and services. The second issue concerns the estimates of financial resources required to provide reproductive health services; to operate programmes for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases; and to meet population data, policy and research needs. The third outstanding issue deals with the definition of such terms as "reproductive rights", "fertility regulation" and "family planning".

A five-day general debate is expected to focus on experiences in population and development strategies and programmes. It will be held concurrently with meetings of the Main Committee charged with resolving outstanding issues and finalizing the draft programme of action, which will then be submitted to the plenary for adoption. Almost 150 countries are expected to participate in the Conference, and some 1,000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been accredited.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development decided yesterday to hold an inter-sessional meeting to continue work on the draft programme of action for the Summit. Committee Chairman Juan Samovia (Chile) said the meeting might take place in conjunction with meetings of the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), so that maximum participation could be achieved with full conference services.

The inter-sessional meeting will address the right to migrate, structural adjustment, official development assistance, social security and the family. It will also consider such issues as poverty reduction, sustainable development, broadening the understanding of work, and the "20/20" initiative. That initiative would have the Governments of developing countries and donors devote 20 per cent of their budgets and official development assistance, respectively, to social spending. Numerous amendments have made the draft programme longer, although the five-chapter structure will be retained.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1723
6 September 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General begins official visit to Pakistan; reviews situation in Afghanistan with Head of Special Mission and Special Representative Mousouris.

+ Secretary-General, opening International Conference on Population and Development, says issues to be discussed in Cairo are of utmost importance for life on earth.

+ Preparatory Committee for 1995 NPT Conference to hold third session in Geneva from 12 to 16 September.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today concluded his visit to Egypt and departed for Pakistan. On arrival in Islamabad, he met with the Head of the Special Mission to Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri, and Special Representative Sotirios Mousouris. Mr. Mousouris reported some progress with de-mining and humanitarian activities in Afghanistan, although shelling was interrupting operations in Kabul. The United Nations was seeking a moratorium in the fighting so that food could be delivered to the city. Ambassador Mestiri reported no political progress, as the Afghan parties had not demonstrated the will to achieve a peace agreement. He was trying to broaden participation in the peace process so as to bring in more moderate elements.

Yesterday in Cairo, the Secretary-General opened the International Conference on Population in Development, having earlier joined Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in greeting Heads of State and Government. He also had meetings with Germany's Minister of the Interior, Bangladesh's Minister for Health and Family Welfare, and India's Minister of State for External Affairs.

On Sunday, the Secretary-General met with President Hedyar Alirza ogly Aliyev of Azerbaijan. They reviewed efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problems of Nagorno-Karabakh and discussed the Secretary-General's plans to visit the country later this year. He also met with United States Vice-President Al Gore, and discussed the Population Conference and social

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For information media--not an official record

development issues, as well as Rwanda, Burundi, Haiti, and United Nations finances.

The Secretary-General was in Paris on Saturday, where he met with Terje Roed Larsen, his Special Coordinator in the occupied territories. Mr. Larsen briefed him on preparations for a donors meeting on international assistance to the territories, which would begin in Paris tomorrow.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday told the International Conference on Population and Development that the issues before it were of the utmost importance for present and future life on earth. In an opening address, he said the future of human society and the efficacy of the world economic order depended on the results achieved in Cairo.

The Secretary-General noted that the world's population was projected to increase from 5.6 billion to between 7.9 billion and 11.5 billion by the year 2050. Growth would be concentrated in the poorest countries. Some 4.5 billion people lived in the world's least developed regions, and the situation would worsen if nothing were done. "How can we adhere to the demand for social progress envisaged in the Charter when, every day, 377,000 new human beings are born, mostly in the developing regions and, in many cases, in circumstances of intolerable hardship and poverty?" he asked.

The draft programme of action before the Conference was a comprehensive and integrated text, the Secretary-General continued. It presented far-reaching proposals on such serious issues as poverty, development, the environment, the status of women, and public health. If the Conference adopted the programme, it would be a great step forward. "We have before us today a golden opportunity that it is the duty of us all to exploit to the fullest," he concluded.

The Conference yesterday elected President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt as its President. Dr. Fred Sai of Ghana, President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, was elected Chairman of the Main Committee.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the 1995 Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will hold its third session in Geneva from 12 to 16 September 1994. During the session, the Committee will continue work on the draft rules of procedure for the Conference, as well as on its agenda and final documents.

The Conference will be held from 17 April to 12 May 1995 -- 25 years after the Treaty entered into force. It will decide whether the Treaty should continue in force indefinitely, or be extended for a fixed period or periods. It will also review the effectiveness of the Treaty and ensure that its purposes and provisions are being realized.

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In considering background documentation for the Conference, the Preparatory Committee will have before it five papers by the Secretariat on the overall implementation of various articles of the Treaty, as well as a paper by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on its activities relevant to the Treaty. The Committee is open to all 165 parties to the Treaty. Representatives of States not parties to the Treaty and representatives of non-governmental organizations will be allowed to attend open meetings as observers.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1724
7 September 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council says it is satisfied with pace of Mozambican peace process; expresses cautious optimism on prospects for democracy, peace and representative government after October elections.

+ Secretary-General, in Islamabad, has talks with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan; asks Special Envoy for Tajikistan to meet with Tajik opposition leaders in Tehran to obtain agreement on cease-fire accord.

+ Secretary-General expresses grave concern at continuing fighting in Afghanistan; appeals for halt to shelling of civilians in Kabul on humanitarian grounds; asks Special Envoy to convene broad-based meeting with view to breaking deadlock in peace process.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights appoints William Clarence to head human rights field operation in Rwanda.

+ Secretary-General of Population Conference says there is no reason why goals in draft programme of action should not be achieved.

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The Security Council today said it was satisfied, at present, with the pace of the peace process in Mozambique, including the demobilization of forces which would be completed shortly. In a statement read out by its President, Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain), the Council expressed cautious optimism that Mozambicans would achieve democracy, lasting peace and responsible representative government in their country.

The Council welcomed the fact that the main Mozambican political parties and the National Elections Commission had confirmed their commitment to the holding of elections on 27 and 28 October, as scheduled. It reiterated its intention to endorse the results provided that the elections were free and fair, and reminded all parties of their obligation to respect them, as well as the principles of democracy. It encouraged the parties to continue efforts to ensure post-electoral harmony on the basis of the General Peace Agreement.

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For information media--not an official record

The Council reaffirmed the importance of proceeding expeditiously with the formation of the new Mozambican Defence Force (FADM). It encouraged the Government of Mozambique to quickly complete the transfer of the requisite authority and assets from the Mozambican Armed Forces (FAM) to the FADM. It called on Member States to provide military training and equipment to the FADM.

The Council expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing a detailed revised timetable for the phased withdrawal of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). It agreed that the Operation should be deployed over a wider area of the country to help maintain security around the time of the elections. The Council noted that the post-election period would be a delicate time, during which Mozambique would need international help with rehabilitation and development. It called on the Secretary-General to report to the competent United Nations bodies on what further role the Organization could perform.

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Continuing his official visit to Pakistan, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today had meetings with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmad Ali. Those meetings focused on regional security issues. The Secretary-General was later scheduled to attend the inaugural ceremony of the Seventh Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference.

Among his appointments yesterday, the Secretary-General had a meeting with his Special Envoy for Tajikistan, Ramiro Piriz-Ballon. Mr. Piriz-Ballon informed him that the Tajik Government was taking a number of positive steps with regard to the peace process. Presidential elections and a referendum on a new constitution had been postponed until November to enable all political groups to take part, and an amnesty had been decreed for many of those imprisoned for political activities. In light of those developments, the Secretary-General instructed the Special Envoy to travel soon to Tehran, to meet with Tajik opposition leaders to obtain their agreement on a cease-fire accord and to press for a third round of talks.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed grave concern at the continuing hostilities and carnage in Afghanistan. After talks with representatives of a range of Afghan parties and independent personalities in Islamabad, he appealed for a moratorium on the shelling of civilian areas in Kabul and other parts of the country. He also called for the opening of roads to the Afghan capital to facilitate the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian supplies.

The Secretary-General urged all Afghan leaders to work for peace, and to cooperate with the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan. The Organization was ready to help Afghanistan emerge from fratricidal conflict, and to curb unwarranted foreign interference in its internal affairs. He called on all countries to continue to support the United Nations in that

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regard, and appealed to donors not to forget the humanitarian dimension of the Afghan tragedy.

The Secretary-General also asked Special Envoy Sotirios Mousouris to convene a broad-based meeting in Afghanistan within a few weeks in the hope of breaking the deadlock in the peace process.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, has appointed Mr. William Clarence to head the human rights field operation in Rwanda. Mr. Clarence, who has worked as a senior representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), will take up his duties in Kigali immediately.

Mr. Clarence will direct and coordinate the work of human rights monitors and experts examining serious violations of human rights and international law in Rwanda. He will also coordinate the work of human rights staff dealing with advisory services and technical assistance programmes there. The United Nations is currently fielding 26 human rights monitors in the country. Up to 147 will be deployed in the coming weeks.

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The Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) has said there is no reason why the Conference's goals -- reduction of infant and maternal mortality, and universal completion of primary education, especially for girls -- should not be achieved. Dr. Nafis Sadik told the Conference on Monday that it should adopt a universally acceptable and highly specific programme of action.

The programme of action was based on the principle of sovereignty, said Dr. Sadik, who is also Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Each country would decide for itself which recommendations were relevant to its conditions and needs, and how to interpret them. While the document addressed the issue of abortion, it did not advocate or promote abortion. On the contrary, the objective was to reduce the need for abortion.

The Minister for Health and Population of Algeria, Yahia Guidoum, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, said success in the population field required action in the areas of education, health and protection of mothers and children. Population policies must be integrated in development efforts at all levels. The programme must enshrine the right to development without ambiguity, while bearing in mind the imperative of reducing poverty.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1725
8 September 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General begins official visit to India, having concluded stay in Pakistan; expresses thanks for Indian support for United Nations peace-keeping operations.

- Special Rapporteur on human rights in former Yugoslavia expresses concern at massive forced displacements of people by Bosnian Serb forces; demands immediate end to expulsions and related activities.

- Robert Dillon begins 10-day mission to Rwanda and neighbouring countries to promote more vigorous regional approach to crisis.

- Member States owe United Nations $3.3 billion as of 31 August; United States pays $335 million in peace-keeping dues in September.

- International Conference on Population and Development continues discussion of national experiences with population policies.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today began an official visit to India, having concluded his stay in Pakistan. He was received at New Delhi airport by Foreign Secretary K. Srinivasan; Environment Minister Kamal Nath; India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, M.H. Ansari; the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Hans von Sponeck; and Special Adviser Chinmaya Gharekhan.

Speaking briefly at the airport, the Secretary-General emphasized India's support for United Nations objectives in the political and development fields, and expressed thanks for its contributions to peace-keeping operations.

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For information media--not an official record

The Special Rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, has expressed grave concern at massive forced displacements of people by Bosnian Serb forces. Expulsions of non-Serbs from areas such as Bijeljina and Banja Luka have recently intensified, he said.

In the last seven weeks, 7,000 people had been forcibly moved or had left the areas in question because of fears for their safety, according to the Special Rapporteur. Furthermore, there were reliable reports of physical abuse, extortion of money and theft of possessions in areas controlled by the Bosnian Serb forces. He insisted that the de facto Bosnian Serb authorities bring an end to the expulsions and related activities immediately.

* * *

Following the Secretary-General's decision to pursue a more vigorous regional approach to the Rwandan crisis and its effects on neighbouring countries, Mr. Robert Sherwood Dillon will begin a mission to the region tonight, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Dillon will spend ten days consulting with all concerned and identify measures to strengthen the coordination of United Nations efforts there. He will then return to Headquarters and report to the Secretary-General.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said, refugees have been returning to Rwanda in increasing numbers. He described that development as very positive. A total of 360,000 refugees had returned in the last three or four weeks, including 100,000 recent arrivals from the Goma area.

Reports that former government forces were returning to the southwestern zone to launch guerrilla operations were greatly exaggerated, the spokesman went on to say. A small number of lightly armed troops had crossed the border, but the situation was not serious. The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) had established control in the zone and efforts would be made to disarm returning troops. In addition, Special Representative Shahryar Khan would be travelling to Zaire and Tanzania to discuss the separation of former military elements from refugees.

* * *

As of 31 August, Member States owed the United Nations a total of $3.3 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $830 million was for assessments for the regular budget and $2.42 billion was for peace-keeping operations. However, the update did not reflect a payment of $335 million made by the United States to the peace-keeping account on 1 September.

* * *

The First Lady of Ghana, Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, yesterday told the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo that Africa as a whole was not overpopulated, but that large migrations had put tremendous pressure on parts of the continent. She called for an objective re-evaluation

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of the premium placed on national borders: "Ghana's vision of African unity has always emphasized the limitations of unnatural borders -- whilst stressing the virtues of an organic whole."

The President of the Central Statistical Office of Hungary noted that the populations of many European countries were shrinking and ageing. The interests of less developed countries would be served only if socio-economic difficulties arising from demographic trends in developed countries were reduced, he said. Slovenia's Minister for Labour, Family and Social Affairs stated that a fertility rate of 1.31 meant an ageing population in her country. In addition, immigration had halted, which was another serious demographic problem.

Bangladesh offered to share lessons learned from its population programmes with other countries, especially those of the South. Such an exchange could be the beginning of a South-South partnership, which would need the generous support of the countries of the North.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1726
9 September 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets with President of India and Government officials in New Delhi; expresses condolences following deaths of Indian peace-keepers in Somalia last month.

+ Humanitarian organizations in Liberia appeal to warring factions to respect safety of relief workers as fighting escalates across country.

+ United Nations expresses concern as Bosnian and Croatian Serbs launch two-pronged attack against Bihac pocket.

+ WFP expands emergency relief operations in Haiti because of effects of economic sanctions on poor; says 2 million people, out of population of 6.5 million, are at risk.

+ Habitat/UNEP mission in Kigali begins planning for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Rwanda.

* * *

Continuing his visit to India, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with several high-level officials, including President Shankar Dayal Sharma, Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khursheed, Foreign Secretary K. Srinivasan, and Defence Minister M. Mallikarjun. Talks focused on the United Nations role in peace-keeping and India's contribution to peace-keeping operations.

The Secretary-General once more expressed his condolences following the recent killings of Indian troops and doctors serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). The Indian Government said that it would maintain its commitment in that country, and that it might contribute troops for Angola and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Also today, the Secretary-General delivered a lecture on "Current World Challenges as Reflected in the United Nations Today." This morning, he participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial in New Delhi.

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For information media—not an official record

Humanitarian organizations working in Liberia today appealed to all warring factions to respect the safety and security of humanitarian institutions and relief workers, particularly Liberian nationals helping the civilian population. They said escalating levels of fighting across the country and the breakdown of law and order had made it impossible to reach those in need.

After an emergency meeting in Monrovia this morning, the humanitarian organizations reminded the warring factions and their supporters of their obligations under the Geneva Conventions and other international laws. They said those laws must be respected so that humanitarian operations could continue.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman today expressed concern regarding intense fighting in the Bihac pocket in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said that Bosnian Serbs were attacking from the south-east while Croatian Serbs were attacking from the north, and that those offensives were obviously coordinated.

The spokesman went on to say that cluster-bombs had been used by the Serbs and that civilians had been killed and injured. French troops serving with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) had been defusing bombs which failed to explode. Meanwhile, surface-to-air missiles had been fired at two British aircraft, but neither had been hit.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) is expanding its emergency relief operations in Haiti because of the "alarming effects" of tightened economic sanctions on the country's poorest and most vulnerable people, including returned refugees. The WFP has estimated that more than 2 million Haitians, out of a population of 6.5 million, are at risk. More than half the work force is unemployed and the loss of income has seriously affected the diets of the poor. Even before sanctions were imposed, Haiti had suffered a two-year drought and growing political unrest.

In one project, the WFP will provide daily rations to 100,000 Haitians for six months at a cost of more than $3 million. Most of the food will go to malnourished children, pregnant and nursing women and the elderly. This is the third phase of an operation that began providing food to 26,000 Haitians in 1992.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have sent a mission to Kigali to prepare for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Rwanda. The mission will draw up plans of action in five inter-related areas: urban infrastructure and housing; employment and the local economy; urban environment; environmental interaction between city and countryside; and urban management.

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Experts on urban infrastructure and housing will assess the damage caused by the recent conflict and consider how to repair roads, provide water and electricity, collect waste and improve the provision of health services. Specialists on the urban environment will examine environmental conditions with a view to protecting resources such as drinking water, and arranging for the disposal of waste.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1727
12 September 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement on Friday, says UNITA has accepted national reconciliation proposals put forward at Angola peace talks; urges parties to reach comprehensive agreement before UNAVEM II mandate expires on 30 September.

+ Secretary-General begins working visit to Japan; meets former Government officials and receives report on reform of United Nations.

+ Bosnian Serbs halt shelling of Bihac after UNPROFOR Commander warns of possible NATO action; situation in Sarajevo said to be very tense.

+ NPFL faction detains 43 military observers in Liberia; large amount of equipment and vehicles seized.

+ Population and Development Conference concludes negotiations on reproductive rights chapter in draft programme of action.

* * *

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) has formally accepted all the proposals on national reconciliation put forward in the Lusaka peace talks, according to the Security Council. In a statement read out by President Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain) on Friday, the Council said UNITA had conveyed its acceptance in a letter to the Secretary-General's Special Representative on 5 September.

The Council stated that by accepting the proposals, UNITA had met the requirements set out in resolution 932 (1994). As a result, it would not add the measures -- trade sanctions and travel restrictions -- indicated in resolution 864 (1993) to the existing oil and arms embargo against UNITA.

The Council urged UNITA and the Angolan Government to reach a comprehensive agreement within the framework of the "Acordos de Paz" and relevant resolutions before the current mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) expired on 30 September. It reiterated that it would reconsider the United Nations role in Angola if a peace agreement

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For information media--not an official record

were not concluded. The Council also reiterated its demand that the parties cease all offensive actions.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday began a working visit to Japan, having concluded his official visit to India. Shortly after arriving in Tokyo, he had private meetings with a range of officials, including former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and former Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa.

Today, the Secretary-General had talks with former Prime Ministers Yasuhiro Nakasone, Tsutomu Hata and Morihiro Hosokawa. The Japan Economic Research Institute also presented him with a report on United Nations reform.

Addressing a luncheon hosted by the United Nations Association of Japan, the Secretary-General said democratization of the United Nations would be well served by giving the country a permanent seat on the Security Council. He stressed that Japan would not be obliged to contribute troops to peace-keeping operations, as such contributions were purely voluntary for all Member States. Peace-keeping accounted for less than one third of United Nations activities, and Japan would have no difficulty finding ways to contribute in the political, economic and humanitarian spheres.

* * *

Bosnian Serb forces halted their shelling of Bihac yesterday after the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, warned that further attacks on the safe area could lead to action by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). However, Bosnian Government forces continued to fire mortars out of the pocket, and UNPROFOR was worried that the Bosnian Serbs would retaliate, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Force Commander of UNPROFOR, General Bertrand de Lapresle, met with the parties over the weekend with a view to reducing tension and urged a halt to military activity in the pocket.

Meanwhile, the situation in Sarajevo was very tense after Bosnian Serb forces fired a mortar round in violation of the exclusion zone around the city. There was also moderate shelling near Tuzla. The spokesman noted a considerable increase in the number of unauthorized helicopter flights in the area, in violation of the no-fly zone. An anti-tank round was fired at the hotel housing the head of the European Union administration in Mostar yesterday, although he was not in his room at the time. Croatian President Franjo Tudjman promised to assist the investigation into the incident, which appeared to be a deliberate attack.

The spokesman went on to say that three British UNPROFOR soldiers had been killed, and five wounded, outside Gorazde today when their armoured personnel carrier rolled into a ravine. The incident was described as a

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traffic accident, and was not the result of an attack on the vehicle.

* * *

Forty-three military observers have been detained by a faction of National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), a United Nations spokesman announced today. He said a large amount of equipment and vehicles had also been seized. The observers were being held in different locations and some were in difficult circumstances, although none had been injured or harmed.

The spokesman went on to say that the general situation in Liberia was difficult; fighting was continuing across the country and there had been no progress towards disarmament. Peace talks in Ghana which had been suspended last week resumed today, he noted.

* * *

At the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo today, negotiations were concluded on the chapter of the draft programme of action dealing with reproductive rights and reproductive health. Ambassador Nicolas Beekman of the Netherlands said that the essential unanimity which had existed when the text was being drafted in New York had been preserved. Despite a semblance of divergency, the nations of the world saw population and development issues -- including family planning -- in much the same way, he added.

On Friday, Rwandan representative Patrick Mazimhaka said the situation in his country was not the result of demographic pressure but of political manipulation of the population. He stated that the genocide there could be seen as "yet another attempt to manipulate demographics to serve political ends." Rwanda now must embark on development policies that would promote population stabilization.

Several African countries with serious health care problems and high fertility rates spoke of their experiences with population issues. High infant and maternal mortality rates were cited as primary factors in attempting to form population policies. Speakers also stressed the need for help from the international community in implementing those policies.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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13 September 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council demands immediate release of 43 UNOMIL observers and 6 non-governmental organization staff detained in Liberia; seeks return of all property seized.

+ International Conference on Population and Development adopts 20-year programme of action to stabilize world population growth and achieve sustainable development.

+ Secretary-General has audience with Emperor and Empress of Japan; Prime Minister Murayama announces contribution of team to aid Rwandan refugees in Zaire.

+ Secretary-General says Bosnian safe areas are not currently in sufficient danger to warrant use of NATO air power; Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serbs express interest in concept of demilitarized Sarajevo.

+ Nine political parties in Burundi sign agreement on presidential succession.

+ General Committee recommends that General Assembly include item on emergency assistance to Moldova in current agenda.

* * *

The Security Council today strongly condemned the detention and mistreatment of 43 unarmed military observers of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) and six non-governmental organization staff. In a statement read out by President Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain), the Council described that action as a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and the Cotonou Agreement. It demanded that those responsible immediately release the detained personnel and return all property seized.

The Council urged all parties to strictly observe the Cotonou Agreement and to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of all United Nations and humanitarian personnel. It asked the Economic Community of West African

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For information media--not an official record

States (ECOWAS) to ensure that the Economic Community Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) continued to extend protection to the extent possible to UNOMIL personnel, in accordance with the exchange of letters last October by the Secretary-General and the ECOWAS Chairman defining the respective roles of the two missions in Liberia. The Council also called on the international community to assist ECOWAS with the necessary resources to enable ECOMOG to fulfil its mandate.

* * *

The International Conference on Population and Development today adopted a 20-year programme of action for stabilizing world population growth and achieving sustainable development. The 16-chapter programme says that those aims are mutually reinforcing, and stresses the need to empower women and to guarantee choice in family planning.

The programme of action calls on all countries to ensure women's full involvement in policy-making so that they can achieve economic self-reliance, and to eliminate practices that discriminate against women. It underscores the need to promote gender equality in the family, and says that men should take more responsibility for their fertility and for parenting.

The programme says that if women are to realize their full potential, they must be guaranteed reproductive rights and must be able to manage their reproductive roles. They must have access to reliable information and quality health care services, including family planning. The text makes it clear that while Governments have a legitimate interest in population trends, coercion should not be used in family planning programmes.

* * *

Continuing his visit to Japan, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today had an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. He then met with Prime Minister Tomi-ichi Murayama and discussed a number of issues, including arms control and Japan's role in United Nations peace-keeping.

Prime Minister Murayama told the Secretary-General that Japan would play its part, albeit with some constitutional constraints, in the United Nations in the post-cold war period. Japan would send 470 military personnel and ten civilians to aid Rwandan refugees in Zaire. It would also give positive consideration to the question of assistance to the Palestinians, and look into the possibility of contributing to the trust fund for Mozambican political parties.

The Secretary-General later met with Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and discussed peace-keeping matters, including Japan's financial contributions to the Organization. He also attended the Boutros Boutros-Ghali Fellowship inaugural ceremony. Fellowships were awarded to five scholars from different regions of the world.

* * *

There is not at this moment a sufficient threat to the populations of any of the safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina to warrant the use of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air power, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. However, he told a press conference in Tokyo today that the fighting in the Bihac pocket should be contained, and that he and Special Representative Akashi would continue to monitor the situation closely.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs had expressed interest in the concept of a demilitarization of Sarajevo. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) would explore that opening to see if it might lead to a stabilization of the situation there, which would be a significant step towards an overall political settlement.

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Nine political parties in Burundi -- including the Government and main opposition parties -- have signed an agreement on presidential succession, a United Nations spokesman announced today. He said that only three small parties had not signed the agreement, and that the situation in the country appeared to have stabilized somewhat.

* * *

The General Committee today recommended that the General Assembly include an item on emergency assistance to the Republic of Moldova in its current agenda. The representative of Moldova told the Committee that the recent drought, hurricane and floods had caused $600 million worth of damage. Fifty persons had been killed and some 12,000 buildings had been destroyed.

The Committee recommended that the General Assembly ask all States and international organizations to help alleviate the economic and financial burden of the Moldovan people. The Assembly will consider the recommendation tomorrow morning.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1729
14 September 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General arrives in Beijing and meets with Chinese Vice-Premier; signs Host-Country Agreement for 1995 Women's Conference.

* Secretary-General welcomes Burundi power-sharing Convention; says international community will not accept undemocratic solution of country's political problems.

* Special Representative for Rwanda holds constructive talks on refugee issues with President of Zaire; UNAMIR estimates number of displaced persons in Rwanda at two million.

* International Conference on Former Yugoslavia to establish border inspection mission in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; will ensure that only humanitarian aid enters Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Forty-three UNOMIL observers continue to be detained in Liberia; six NGO staff reportedly released.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today began an official visit to the People's Republic of China, where he was joined by Under-Secretary-General Ji. He had a meeting with Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and discussed a range of issues, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tajikistan and Iraq. He also raised the question of next January's Security Council Summit, and the need to reassess peace-keeping operations. At a formal ceremony later in the day, the Secretary-General and the Vice-Premier signed the Host-Country Agreement for the 1995 Women's Conference in Beijing.

The Secretary-General later met with the Foreign Minister of Honduras, who invited him to attend a summit meeting of Central American leaders on peace and development in Tegucigalpa next month. The Secretary-General said that he was unlikely to be able to attend the summit, but that he would send an envoy.

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For information media--not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the signing on 9 September of a Convention of Government on power-sharing by political parties in Burundi. Stressing the importance of peace and stability in that country, he encouraged political leaders who had not yet signed the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

The Secretary-General said only dialogue and compromise could produce a political settlement leading to a lasting peace. Any solution imposed by violence and against democratic principles would not be acceptable to the international community. He expressed the hope that Burundi would soon elect a President and establish a Government, thus facilitating international assistance for rehabilitation, recovery and development.

* * *

Special Representative Shahryar Khan has held very constructive meetings with President Mobutu of Zaire, during which they discussed problems relating to Rwandan refugee camps, a United Nations spokesman said today. The President agreed that former Rwandan soldiers should be moved from border camps to sites 150 to 250 kilometres away. He asked Mr. Khan to assemble a team of United Nations representatives to assess the suitability of six sites which had been identified by the Zairean authorities.

President Mobutu was also willing to allow United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) peace-keepers to cross the border to protect refugees who were being intimidated in the camps, the spokesman continued. He noted that Security Council authorization would be required for any expansion of the Mission's mandate.

The spokesman went on to say that the rainy season had started in the region, and that the refugees needed plastic sheeting for housing. The rains also led to rising malaria rates. Meanwhile, following a detailed analysis of the situation, the British UNAMIR contingent has estimated that there are more than 2 million internally displaced people in Rwanda. Previous estimates put the total at 800,000.

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The Civilian Counsellor of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Bo Pellnas, today left Geneva for Belgrade to establish a border inspection mission in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The mission will work with local customs officials and the Red Cross to ensure that only humanitarian aid crosses the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. It will consist of 135 international staff, supported by a similar number of interpreters and drivers.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman has expressed concern regarding a sharp increase in shelling around Mostar, and a resumption of sniper fire in Gorazde in breach of the anti-sniping agreement concluded earlier this year. Shelling continued today in the Bihac pocket, although the number of detonations was down by half from the 900 reported yesterday.

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The Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Bertrand de Lapresle, and Lieutenant-General Michal Rose would meet with the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels tomorrow, the spokesman said.

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Forty-three military observers from the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) were still being detained in various parts of the country today, according to a spokesman for the Organization. He described their condition as extremely precarious. Meanwhile, there were unconfirmed reports that six non-governmental organization staff had been released by their captors.

Some of the detainees had been allowed to communicate with UNOMIL and some had had stolen property returned to them, the spokesman said. However, others had critically low food stocks and ten had not been heard from. All other military observers in Liberia had been ordered to return to Monrovia.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1730
15 September 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Twenty-five UNOMIL observers escape to Côte d'Ivoire after being detained in Liberia; ECOMOG helps foil attempted coup d'état in Monrovia.

+ Secretary-General, in Beijing, meets with Chinese President and Premier; has talks with King Sihanouk of Cambodia.

+ United Nations asks 50 States to contribute personnel for projected second phase of arrangements for Haiti.

+ UNPROFOR Commanders meet with NATO Military Committee in Brussels; UNHCR expresses concern at obstruction of convoys bound for Bosnian enclaves.

+ Special Envoy for Tajikistan says opposition leaders meeting in Tehran are close to limited cease-fire agreement.

+ Under-Secretary-General Annan arrives in Somalia to conduct four-day review of political and security situation.

+ General Assembly authorizes Secretary-General to commit $37 million for operational needs of UNAMIR from 5 April to 30 September.

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After being detained for almost a week, 25 military observers from the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) have made their way to Côte d'Ivoire, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. He noted that some of them had been mistreated by their captors. There was no news of the other 18 observers who had been detained by a faction of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

Meanwhile, elements of the Liberian armed forces today attempted to stage a coup d'état in Monrovia. They took control of the executive mansion, but the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG) surrounded the building and gave them an ultimatum to get out. The

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For information media--not an official record

spokesman said that the failed coup highlighted the factionalism that had made it so difficult to secure peace in Liberia.

* * *

Continuing his visit to the People's Republic of China, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today had a meeting with President Jiang Zemin. He acknowledged China's contributions to peace-keeping and invited even greater involvement, and expressed the hope that it would participate at the highest levels in the upcoming Security Council Summit. The Secretary-General then met with Premier Li Peng, and discussed the International Conference on Population and Development, United Nations peace-keeping operations, and regional conflicts.

The Secretary-General also met with King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, and discussed the situation there. The King thanked the United Nations for its role in restoring peace to his country, but expressed concern regarding the Khmer Rouge, the lack of reconstruction and the human rights situation. He also briefed the Secretary-General on the status of negotiations to free the three western hostages being held in Cambodia.

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The United Nations has asked 50 Member States for contributions of military forces and military and civilian police for the projected second phase of arrangements for Haiti. A spokesman for the Organization said Bangladesh, Bolivia, Canada, France, Nepal, the Russian Federation, Suriname, the United States, and some Caribbean countries had committed personnel, while Slovakia had offered a military hospital. Argentina, Fiji, the Netherlands, India, Ireland, Peru and Ukraine might also make contributions.

The spokesman said Bangladesh, France and Fiji had offered to contribute 16 of the 60 observers needed for the early phase. Canada had also offered some civilian police monitors.

* * *

The Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Bertrand de Lapresle, and Lieutenant-General Michael Rose met today in Brussels with the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). They discussed the ongoing relationship between UNPROFOR and NATO and contingency planning for the Force's withdrawal should the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims be lifted, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has expressed concern over the obstruction by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of convoys bound for the eastern enclaves in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The agency also said that convoys bound for Bihac were being stopped by Bosnian Serb authorities in Knin.

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The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tajikistan, Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, has reported that Tajik opposition leaders are close to an agreement on a limited cease-fire, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Piriz-Ballon said that if ongoing talks in Tehran, Iran, were successful, he would make plans for a third round of formal negotiations between the parties. Those talks might be held from 10 to 15 October in Islamabad, Pakistan.

* * *

The Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, arrived today in Somalia, where he will spend four days reviewing the political and security situation. Mr. Annan was expected to have talks with Special Representative Victor Gbeho; the Force Commander of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), General Datuk Aboo Samah; the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, Carrol Faubert; and representatives of United Nations agencies.

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The General Assembly has authorized the Secretary-General to commit over $37 million gross ($38 million net) to meet the operational needs of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) from 5 April to 30 September. That amount would be in addition to the $62 million gross previously authorized for the period from 5 April to 31 October. The additional funds will meet costs associated with the expansion of UNAMIR's mandate by the Security Council in May, and with the altered circumstances in Rwanda.

The Assembly asked all States and international organizations to urgently extend further support to the Republic of Moldova, which has recently suffered from drought and other disasters. It called on the Secretary-General to assist in the rehabilitation efforts of Moldova's Government, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies.

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